



# St. Mary Great Mother of God Catholic Church

## We welcome you! December 26, 2021

St. Mary  
Great Mother of  
God Catholic  
Church

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site:  
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Parish Secretary and  
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Jennie Forney  
Director of Religious  
Ed. stmarylow-  
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The Parish Office is  
open Monday-  
Thursday 8:00  
am to 4:30 pm  
Closed for lunch 12-  
1pm

Daily Mass: 7:45 am  
No Mass on Tuesdays  
Weekend Masses:  
Saturday 8:30 am  
Saturday 5:00 pm  
Sunday 10:30  
am

Adoration:  
Wednesdays  
8:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

**Confession:**



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

## THE HOLY FAMILY



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

**Masses for the week of December 27, 2021**

Mon	Dec 27	7:45 am	Mass -for the repose of the soul of Julia Rasch
Tue	Dec 28		<b>No Mass Today</b>
Wed	Dec 29	7:45 am	Mass--for the repose of the soul of Virginia Nellett
Thur	Dec 30	7:45 am	Mass--for Cheryl Doyle and family
Fri	Dec 31	7:45 am	Mass-- for all Parishioners
Sat	Jan 1	8:30am	Mass-- for the perseverance of all priests and religious
		5:00pm	Mass-- for all parishioners
Sun	Jan 2	10:30 am	Mass-- for all parishioners

**“Christ came chiefly for this reason: that man might learn how much God loves him.”**

**—Saint Augustine**

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF January 1& 2

	<u>Saturday 5:00 pm</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Katie Schnipke</b>	<b>Matt VanderWerff</b>
<b>Ex. Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	<b>Rhonda Stump</b>	<b>Roger/Kathy Southland</b>
<b>Green Acres/Homebound</b>	<b>Cathy Gutowski</b>	
<b>Flower Schedule</b>	<b>Christen Topolinski</b>	



Knights of Columbus Council 7719 invites all members of the parish and their guests to join us for free pizza following the 6:45 p.m. Benediction on Wednesday evenings after Adoration. Pizza will be served in the PLC until 8pm. All are welcome!

Deposit for 12/19, 2021 will appear later

Adult Envelopes:	\$
Loose collection:	\$
Children's:	\$ 0.00
<b>Total:</b>	\$



Are you preparing for marriage or looking into Natural Family Planning (NFP) options? The **Franciscan Life Process Center** invites you to **Introduction to Natural Family Planning (NFP)** on January 22 from 10:00 - 11:30 am at the Grand Rapids campus, 654 Davis Ave., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. This one-time session covers the basics of how NFP works and highlights the differences between methods. Cost: \$25/individual and \$40/couple Go to <https://introtonfp.eventbrite.com> to register.

**Happy Birthday to You!**

- 12/27 Deb Baker, Jill Smith, Jamie Brabant
- 12/28 Gerald Eagan, Sophie Doyle
- 12/29 Matthew Altoft, Tim Hustader, Hannah Flickinger
- 1/1 Gordon Reynolds, Douglas Weeks
- 1/2 Grace Lapsie



**Rest in Peace-for our deceased & their loved ones;** All of our fallen heroes and the faithful departed. **Support Prayer for comfort & healing to those who are ill or injured, for the homebound & for caregivers and those in the Military;** All those affected by Covid-19 and natural disasters, Kathy Noskey, Rhonda Fitzpatrick, Susan Serne, Bob Graham, Mary DeLiefde, Lisa Zigmont, Vee Sarb, Bob & Barb Hess, Pat O'Connor, Jim Roskamp, Jeff Bowles, Betsy Davidson, Donna Roskamp, Dave & Martha Roskamp, Gertrude Zygaj, Anna Organek, the unemployed, Michigan's economy, and war wounded, justice and peace in the world, and for all priests and religious, and the Holy Catholic Church.

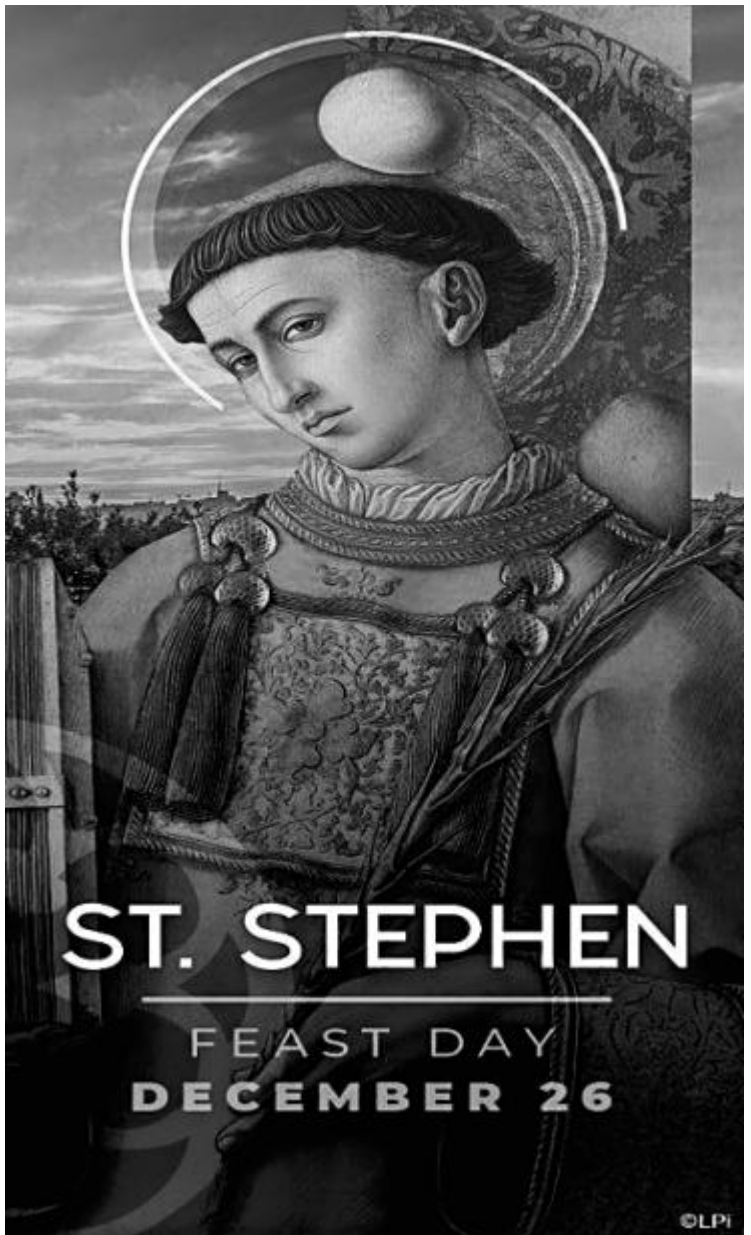


## Coming Back to Church

Question: I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer: If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back. This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

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THE HOLY FAMILY  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 26, 2021

# HEART

— ✕ —

And his mother  
kept all these things  
in her heart.

LUKE 2:51

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCC. ©LPi

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# WORSHIP & MEDITATION



## FIRST READING

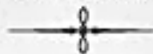
"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD."

(1 Sm 1:27-28)



## PSALM

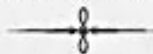
Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)



## SECOND READING

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)



## GOSPEL

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

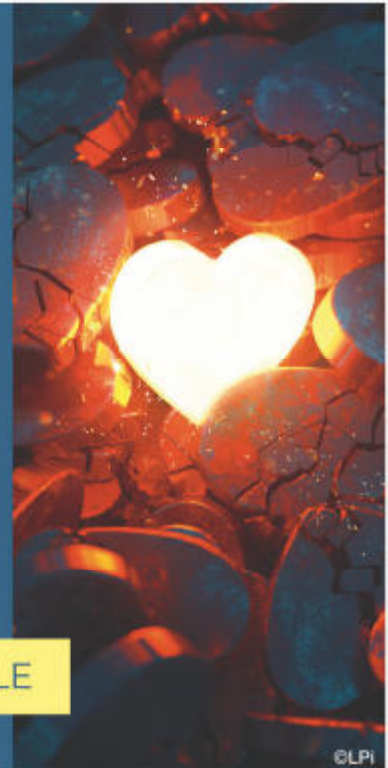
## LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

"GOD IS LOVE.  
WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE LIVES IN GOD AND GOD IN HIM."

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE



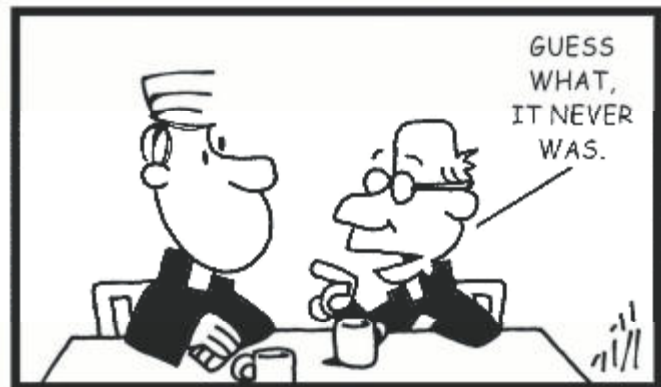
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Merry Christmas!  
I pray your celebrations of the Lord's birth are truly filled with holiness, peace, and joy. The world is a radically different place because Christ is born. Let's rejoice in what God has done for us.

--Fr. Ferris

### HOLY FAMILY



THE HOLY FAMILY

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